

**WORKFORCE SYSTEMS LETTER NO.: 06-07****DATE:** April 10, 2006

EFFECT:	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>INFO</u>	<u>WITH ATTACHMENT</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [X]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [X] SWA's	<input type="checkbox"/> []
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [X]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [X] State DUA Contacts	<input type="checkbox"/> []

SUBJECT: Guidance for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) extension for Hurricane Katrina and Rita Evacuees

1. Purpose: To provide guidance to State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) on the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006 that extends the duration of DUA for individuals unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina and Rita on August 29, 2005, and September 24, 2005, respectively.

2. Background: The Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006 supersedes, for purposes of these major disasters, the definition of "disaster assistance period" set forth at 20 CFR 625.2(f), which requires ending the disaster assistance period 26 weeks after the declaration. In addition, individuals unemployed as a result of these disasters will have 13 weeks added to the disaster assistance period in order to file an initial application for DUA, if there is good cause for late filing under 20 CFR 625.8(a).


Individuals eligible for DUA should have the ending date of their disaster assistance period changed to June 3, 2006, in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi under the declaration for Hurricane Katrina and June 24, 2006, in Louisiana and Texas under the declaration for Hurricane Rita. All new DUA claims will need to be established using the DUA base period; for individuals who have exhausted regular UI benefits, this may result in a different Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) than they received on their UI claim.

3. Action: SWA Administrators are requested to:

- Inform appropriate staff that as a result of the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act, interstate claimants may need to be advised that the 13 week extension may require a recalculation of the DUA WBA. This recalculation is based upon the DUA base period, which is the most recent tax year. Please be aware of this potential recalculation of the WBA for those UI claimants who have exhausted their UI benefits and become eligible for DUA.
- Inform appropriate staff that current DUA claimants may be eligible for up to 39 weeks of benefits.
- Inform appropriate staff that individuals who become unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina or Rita may be eligible for DUA if they exhaust UI before the expiration of the disaster assistance period.

4. Inquires: Inquiries should be directed to Amanda Shaffer at (617)788-0115 or shaffer.amanda@dol.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William L. Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'C'.

William L. Carlson, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator